

after six Muslim imams were told to get off a plane they had boarded in Minneapolis, but the Judiciary Committee never had the opportunity to study it or perfect it. Regardless of its merit, this provision should have received more careful consideration by the Senate. I am deeply concerned that as written this provision appears to endorse racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination. The best way to prevent terrorism is through solid law enforcement and intelligence work, not through scare tactics or racial profiling.

I voted for this bill because it makes key changes to address security needs. However, our Nation's vulnerabilities demand more and I will continue to work to ensure that our vital homeland security needs are met.

RETIREMENT OF PAUL CULLINAN

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, as chairman of the Budget Committee, and along with my colleague, Senator GREGG, the ranking member, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the expert assistance that the Congress has received from Paul Cullinan during his time at the Congressional Budget Office. Paul is retiring from congressional service in August, and this institution will sorely miss him.

Dr. Cullinan arrived at CBO in 1981, and has contributed to a vast range of policy analyses, budget projections, and legislative cost estimates over the past 26 years. But more important than the amount and variety of such work is the consistently high quality of that work and Paul's continual dedication to providing the Congress with thorough and timely analysis.

For the past 13 years, Paul Cullinan has served as the unit chief of CBO's Human Resources Cost Estimates Unit. He excelled in that role, and his service there allowed CBO to provide critical support to consideration of many varied pieces of legislation, including: efforts to reauthorize and extend higher education programs and the food stamps program, potential changes to Social Security, proposals to reform U.S. immigration policies, and changes to a host of income security programs. Moreover, Paul has been a key contributor to and coordinator of CBO's work on long-term budget projections, which we have come to consider more as we move toward the pending retirement of the baby-boom generation.

In addition to his superb analysis of legislative proposals, Paul has provided constant and wise support to the Budget Committees in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. In short, there are only a handful of true first-tier budget experts here on Capitol Hill, and Paul Cullinan is clearly in the top ranks of that small group—we will miss his input, careful judgment, and dedication to providing the best budgetary information possible for congressional consideration.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I join with Senator CONRAD in recognizing

Paul Cullinan of the Congressional Budget Office. Paul's leadership, extremely dedicated work, and the products of his unit have been essential to understanding entitlement programs and the long-term fiscal condition of the United States. Paul has served CBO Directors and Budget Committee Members of the House and Senate with distinction. He represents the type of dedicated public servants whom we are fortunate to have at the CBO.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Madam. President, today I rise in support of the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act which was introduced on July 25. I am pleased to join my colleagues Senators EDWARD M. KENNEDY, OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, and MARIA CANTWELL to introduce this bipartisan proposal which seeks to encourage States to modernize their unemployment insurance systems. The Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act would make \$7 billion in incentive payments available to States to encourage them to expand eligibility for benefits and provide training to workers struggling with long-term unemployment.

The unemployment insurance, UI, program must be reformed to address fundamental shifts in the economy. The UI system provides needed benefits to millions of U.S. workers each year. But the system needs to be updated to better assist today's more highly mobile workforce and long-term unemployed workers left behind by declining industries. Today, many unemployed workers do not qualify for benefits because their most recent work is not taken into account. Others exhaust their benefits before finding work, joining 1.1 million long-term unemployed workers and an additional 1.5 million discouraged job-seekers struggling to get by. For these reasons, only 35 percent of unemployed workers currently collect unemployment benefits.

The UI Modernization Act sets aside \$7 billion from tax receipts authorized under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, FUTA, to provide incentive payments to encourage States to update their UI systems. The bill rewards states for: (1) removing barriers that block coverage for low-wage and part-time workers; (2) ensuring a more family-friendly UI system; and (3) helping dislocated workers increase their skills. It also provides \$500 million in funding to States to improve the administration of their unemployment compensation systems. These administrative payments are fully paid for from the existing UI trust fund.

The UI Modernization Act would give States the resources and flexibility they need to pass important reforms. Each State would have a chance to receive a share of the \$7 billion set aside for incentive payments. To receive one-third of its allotted funds, a State must

adopt an "alternative base period" allowing workers to meet eligibility requirements by counting their most recent wages. This makes the system—which has traditionally relied on wage data that is up to 6 months old more accurate and helps workers who have recently satisfied earnings requirements to collect the benefits they deserve. States that have already adopted such a system would also receive these incentive payments.

States will receive the additional two-thirds of their share of funds if they adopt or have adopted two of the following reforms that benefit workers: (1) provide unemployment compensation for workers who have voluntarily left their jobs due to the illness or disability of an immediate family member, the relocation of a spouse for employment, or domestic violence; (2) provide training benefits to unemployed workers laid off from a "declining" occupation who are enrolled in a State-approved training program for entry into a high-demand occupation; (3) provide unemployment compensation benefits to individuals seeking part-time work; (4) raise maximum compensation caps so that all long-term unemployed workers can receive a full 26 weeks of benefits; or (5) pay unemployed workers at least an extra \$15 per week for each of the worker's dependents.

Mr. President, in periods of unemployment, workers need a sound program of training and benefits to find new and rewarding opportunities. This bill will provide important resources to States like Virginia, as they improve their programs to help workers and their families in times of need.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, despite the outcry for change in the wake of the deadliest shooting rampage in our Nation's history, too many schools continue to be plagued by gun violence. True prevention requires reducing the likelihood of death or injury before an incident occurs. Unfortunately, we have still not done enough to prevent dangerous guns from falling into the hands of those who may intentionally or unintentionally use them to harm themselves or others.

Earlier this month, a group of engineering students at Kettering University, in Flint, MI, gathered in an apartment to celebrate the beginning of their 3-month job co-ops, part of their degree requirements. One of the students stumbled across a 9mm handgun lying on a dresser in one of the apartment's bedrooms. He picked up the weapon, and, after seeing himself in a mirror, made a sudden spin move with it. As he spun around, the gun accidentally discharged. Karl Joseph Hansen, 21 years old and asleep at the time, died of a single gunshot wound to the head.

Because a loaded handgun was present in an otherwise unremarkable